

# WEEKLY CHRONICLE

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## Filner Pays Tribute To 46th Anniversary Of Medicare



Congressman Bob Filner reminds us that, July 30th marked the 46th anniversary of when the Medicare program was enacted. President Lyndon Johnson signed Medicare into law on July 30, 1965.

"Medicare has truly changed what it means to grow old in this country," said Congressman Filner. "We no longer have to worry that we will not have access to medical care in our old age. And we no longer have to worry our parents will go into poverty to pay for their medical bills – or that we will have to go broke caring for our parents."

In 1964, only 51 percent of Americans over 65 had health

care coverage – whereas today, because of Medicare, coverage is virtually universal. In addition, the creation of Medicare has played a role in the poverty rate among seniors dropping dramatically. Nearly 30 percent of seniors lived below the poverty line in 1964 – and that number has dropped to 7.5 percent.

"As we celebrate that success, we are reminded that House Republicans want deep cuts to Medicare and to replace it with a voucher system. In this time of great need, they voted to slash the program that has worked well for 46 years," said Congressman Filner. "I agree that we need to strengthen

Medicare so that it will be there for future generations, but gutting the program is not the way to do it."

Currently, Medicare provides comprehensive health care coverage to 47 million Americans, including 39 million seniors and 8 million people under 65 with disabilities. Medicare is also enormously popular with seniors and people with disabilities – with Medicare beneficiaries more satisfied with their coverage than Americans with private insurance. Medicare provides a guaranteed set of benefits and affordable premiums